

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 18, 2001 -- 9:00 a.m. -- Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson,
Senate Chair
Rep. Marda Dillree, House Chair
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. David H. Steele
Sen. Pete Suazo
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Jeff Alexander
Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux
Rep. Afton B. Bradshaw
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Loraine T. Pace
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
Rep. LaWanna Shurtliff
Rep. Matt Throckmorton
Rep. A. Lamont Tyler

Members Absent:

Sen. Bill Wright

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen,
Research Analyst
Mr. Dee S. Larsen,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call To Order - Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Members of the committee and staff were introduced.

MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved to approve the minutes of November 30, 2000. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Priority Studies

Sen. Stephenson reviewed the items of study for the 2001 interim period. He indicated which items the Legislative Management Committee had already approved for study based on requests submitted by the committee chairs. Sen. Stephenson asked the members to rank their top ten study priorities and submit them to staff.

3. Implementation of S.B. 169, "Charter School Amendments"

Sen. Stephenson reviewed the current law regarding charter schools. He noted the requirements of S.B. 169, "Charter School Amendments," may make it difficult for a new charter school to be established by September, 2001. Mr. Steven Laing, State Office of Education, stated that some local school districts were working with charter applicants to address local criteria prior to the bill's July 1, 2001, effective date.

Mr. Jim Peterson, chair of the founders group of the proposed Thomas Edison charter school in Cache Valley, expressed concern about the lack of startup funding and appealed to the legislature to consider charter schools' need for those funds.

Ms. Patti Peterson, co-founder of the proposed Thomas Edison charter school, expressed concern with the enrollment limitation for a charter school and its impact, especially when a charter school is sponsored by a small school district.

Mr. Michael Kjar, Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, clarified for the committee that the \$420,000 appropriation for charter schools did not include money for startup costs.

Mr. Eric Smith, Timpanogos Academy Foundation, explained the foundation is submitting an application for a charter school to the Alpine School District. He requested that a portion of the appropriation for charter schools be used for startup costs.

MOTION: Rep. Throckmorton moved that the co-chairs request the Executive Appropriations Committee to consider the availability of funding for charter schools' startup costs within existing discretionary funds in the education budget and to address the issue in the next legislative session. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Suazo and Rep. Bourdeaux absent for the vote.

4. Implementation of S.B. 28, "Utah Performance Assessment for Students Amendments"

Ms. Barbara Lawrence, Mr. John Flagg, and Ms. Vicky Dahn, Utah State Office of Education, addressed the issue of electronic administration of standardized tests. They distributed and reviewed a handout, "Computer-Based Test Administration." Ms. Lawrence emphasized that Utah will be among just a few states that have considered statewide electronic testing, so no large-scale precedent exists.

5. Applied Technology Education

Mr. Larsen, associate general counsel, and Ms. Steffen, research analyst, distributed and reviewed background information on applied technology education, including what it is and how it is delivered, administered, and funded.

Sen. Blackham addressed the need for increased funding and servicing of applied technology centers throughout the state. He noted that applied technology centers need to address the needs of the adult student, the secondary student, and business. Consistent with this mission, regional applied technology education boards should include business representatives and a representative of each school district and higher education institution in the region. He distributed and reviewed

charts showing proposals for the governance of the applied technology education system.

Rep. Ron Bigelow expressed the need for more programs to be made available throughout the state. He also emphasized meeting the needs of the secondary student. He distributed and reviewed proposed changes to the governance of the applied technology education system.

Visitors from the business community distributed information to the committee.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

